

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 103 - SB 28

February 5, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Permits students who do not qualify under current eligibility requirements regardless of individual or school performance to be enrolled in a public charter school to fill any openings for the following academic year. Removes cap on the number of charter schools that may be opened. Removes cap on how many free and reduced-price lunch students may be enrolled in kindergarten through third grade.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

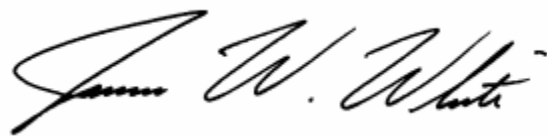
Other Fiscal Impact - More regular public school students not eligible under current guidelines will be eligible to transfer into public charter schools. BEP funds may shift from local education agencies, dependent upon the number of students enrolling in public charter schools, the capacity of the charter school, and the number of open enrollment slots. However, it is estimated that there will not be a new shift in funds as a result of this bill in the near-term. Currently planned charter school grade expansions and new charter school openings for the 2009-10 school year will take place in the absence of this bill.

Assumptions:

- There are currently 16 charter schools in Tennessee.
- Making more regular K-12 public school students eligible to attend charter schools will not increase the number of available slots in charter schools.
- Removing the cap on the number of charter schools that may be opened will not cause more charter schools to open or change application requirements until the current cap of 50 schools is reached.
- The charter school application process will not change.
- Though charter schools must apply for a charter amendment from the governing LEA to increase enrollment capacity, a charter amendment is not required to lower enrollment capacity. Therefore, a charter school's capacity could be limited by the teaching structure of the school instead of physical space available.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

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